



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Pueblo de Cochiti Low-Water Stream Crossings

Project Summary

The Santa Fe River is culturally important to the people of the Pueblo de Cochiti and is home to a small population of native Rio Grande sucker (*Catostomus plebeius*). Years of motor vehicle and cattle use at road crossings have negatively impacted habitats important to Rio Grande sucker.

Through funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Passage Program, the Pueblo de Cochiti and New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NMFWCO) were able to retrofit two low-water stream crossings for the benefit of native fishes. Improvements using a cellular confinement system packed with various sized rock helped to stabilize the streambed, reduce sedimentation, and provide year round fish passage. These low-water stream crossings will be monitored by Pueblo de Cochiti to ensure that the benefits to Rio Grande sucker last well into the future.

This project is one example of how NMFWCO and its Tribal partners work collaboratively to benefit shared aquatic resources. Similar projects, on other Tribal lands, are scheduled to be completed over the next several years and these projects will benefit a host of other native fishes.

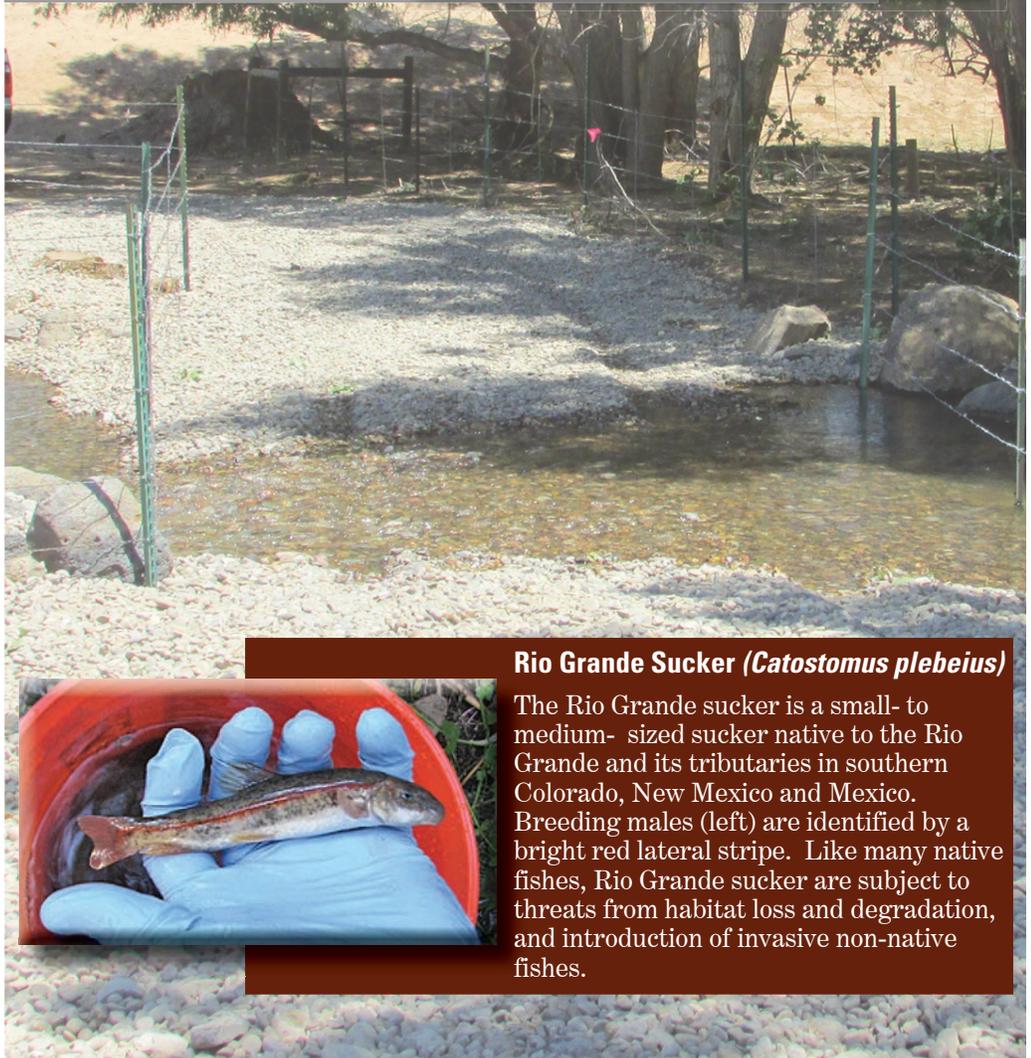
About the TYCC Program

Much of the work to improve the low-water stream crossings on the Santa Fe River was completed by participants of NMFWCO's TYCC Program. This Program provides Native American youth with hands-on opportunities to work alongside natural resource professionals on conservation activities.

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During the week of July 21, 2014, the NMFWCO, Pueblo de Cochiti, and Tribal Youth Conservation Corps (TYCC) constructed a low-water stream crossing on the Santa Fe River. This work helped to stabilize the streambed, reduce sedimentation and provide year-round fish passage.



Rio Grande Sucker (*Catostomus plebeius*)

The Rio Grande sucker is a small- to medium- sized sucker native to the Rio Grande and its tributaries in southern Colorado, New Mexico and Mexico. Breeding males (left) are identified by a bright red lateral stripe. Like many native fishes, Rio Grande sucker are subject to threats from habitat loss and degradation, and introduction of invasive non-native fishes.